

To All the Hui Lima Kokua Members, Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

As we bring 2020 to a close, it's an opportunity for all of us to pause and reflect on how much our lives have changed in one year. We had to learn to wear masks, distance ourselves from others, wash hands, avoid large gatherings, discontinue watching movies in theaters, cut back on travel, etc. 2020 will surely go down in history as one of the most challenging and tumultuous years in our lifetime. I truly hope that nothing tragic happened to you, your family, and your loved ones during this pandemic year.

As for our club, we will continue to be cautious and not rush into our normal monthly potlucks. I certainly miss not being able to see and mix with members like the good old days. Will we ever get back to normal? Yes, then one day we will have stories to tell our kids and grand kids. How are you occupying yourselves these days? As for us (Mike & Kay), we are more involved in meeting friends on zoom (ukulele, hula, and cultural events). To think that I have never heard of this zoom application a year ago.

Just a brief mention of myself, I am Mike Nakamura. I was born and raised in Hawaii. After I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a major in Accounting, I worked for the Federal Government in Fort Shafter. I later transferred to Okinawa where I worked with a young lady who later became my wife. After 5 years in Okinawa, I was transferred to Oxnard Air Force Base in Camarillo as a Deputy Accounting & Finance Officer. One of the first "local" guy I met at this base was Gerry Wong. Gerry grew up in Kalihi, Honolulu, close to where I grew up. In 1969 the base closed so I transferred to the Navy Base in Port Hueneme, then transferred to Point Mugu Navy Base in 1987 where I bumped into Gerry Wong again who introduced me to the Hawaii Club. Kay and I love to play the ukulele while Kay also love to hula. We are also members of the Okinawa Club where we often meet virtually and can enjoy different programs. One of the programs featured Jake Shimabukuro who played the uke and also talked about his childhood growing up in Hawaii.

Kay and I are parents of two boys. Dean, the older son, is married to Rachel and they live in Colorado and they both work for the U.S. Olympic Committee. The pandemic situation postponed the Olympic Games that was supposed to take place in Tokyo this past summer. They both travel to the Olympic sites to handle logistics during the Games. Shawn, our second son, is married to Ani and have a 2 ½ year old daughter, Diana. Shawn works in the computer field in Santa Paula while Ani does eyelashes in Ventura. We take turns babysitting Diana with her other grandparents who live in Ventura. While both our sons were young, we kept them occupied in sports. They both played high school sports and both were on the U.S. National Field Hockey team.

My alma mater, UH, played a football game against UH in the New Mexico Bowl on December 24 and won by a score of 28-14. Let me clarify, University of Hawaii (UH) beat University of Houston (UH). We ended up the shortened season with a 5-4 record. Talking about alma mater, my high school, St Louis, has two outstanding quarterbacks playing in the National Football League now, Marcus Mariota plays for the Las Vegas Raiders and Tua Tagovailoa plays for Miami Dolphins. Marcus is 5 years older than Tua and tutored the youngster before he entered high school. They still remain close. St Louis is the last remaining all boys school in Honolulu now. Our long time rival, lolani, went coed in 1979.

Have a Safe, Happy and Healthy 2021.

Mike Nakamura